THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 25TH, 2026 // BOOK OF ACTS

DRIFTING (ACTS 27:27–32)

DRIFTING IN THE ADRIATIC SEA

After 14 days of fighting the storm and fearing for their lives, they began to sense land and checked the depth of the water.

- What should have been a 40-mile trip to Phoenix became a 450-mile trip to Malta.
- They might have avoided the last two weeks of terror if they had listened to Paul.
- **God still kept Paul on his journey to Rome, even in the worst circumstances.**

PRAYING FOR DAYLIGHT

Realizing they were approaching land quickly and blindly, they dropped four anchors from the back of the boat to hold them in place.

- Praying to their pagan gods that they would would live through the night wasn't enough for some who tried to escape.
- They hadn't believed Paul, and they didn't believe their own gods.
- **What is our plan in the storm?**

"YOU CANNOT BE SAVED"

In an attempt to save themselves, a few sailors put the whole ship in jeopardy.

- Paul made it clear that God's promise was to spare the lives of everyone on the ship and it wouldn't be changed.
- Everyone would be affected by a few people's decision to go their own way.
- **Are we making shortcut plans? Do we have ropes that need to be cut? Will we let them be cut?**

SURVIVAL (ACTS 27:33–38)

"PAUL URGED THEM ALL TO TAKE FOOD"

We find out that the two weeks of terror had been compounded by the fact that no one had eaten during the storm.

- They had survived this far; what would come next would require even more strength.
- God was going to save their lives, but they still had the responsibility to keep doing what was practical.
- **They didn't believe God would save them, so they hadn't prepared to survive.**

"THEY ALL WERE ENCOURAGED"

God had made a promise, and now Paul would show them that he knew it was true.

- Taking the bread, praying to God, and eating the bread in front of all of them helped each one see what hope looked like.
- The storm was still there. The potential for destruction was still there.
- **What a difference it makes to remember a promise and praise God for His presence!**

LIGHTENING THE SHIP

Luke records that there was a total of 276 souls on board and notes that "they" were encouraged.

- Most of these men were not Believers, but they did begin to show confidence and started to do something courageous.
- Tossing the grain may have lightened the ship, but it also revealed their belief in the promise.
- **Do we have enough faith to toss what is weighing us down?**

SAFETY (ACTS 27:39–44)

A NEW PLAN TO SURVIVE

They could see the land, and it wasn't familiar. But in a storm, any land looks inviting.

- It was dangerous, but they fully committed to getting to safety.
- Cutting away the anchors, opening up the rudders, and setting sail toward the beach was their best plan for survival.
- It almost worked, but they hit a sandbar.
- **Storms, depression, renewed hope, plans, and renewed defeat—sound familiar?**

THE SOLDIERS' PLAN

With the ship jammed into the sand and the rear of it being destroyed by the waves, the soldiers' were about to execute their plan.

- Their plan ignored God's promise that everyone would survive.
- They were willing to sacrifice others to save themselves.
- **When we forget God's promises, we start to look for ways to save (and serve) ourselves, even at the expense of others.**

"HE WANTED TO SAVE PAUL"

The centurion stood tall in the storm and stopped the soldiers' plan.

- His goal was to save Paul, but God would use him to to fulfill His promise.
- He ordered everyone who could swim to jump and freestyle to shore.
- Everyone else would have to grab something that floated to help them get to safety.
- **One way or another, everyone made it.**

EXTREME WEATHER

- We all have storms in our lives.
- **Some are bigger than others.**
- **We can handle the small ones and even the big ones. It's when the storms begin to overlap and combine that we start to lose hope. What is our plan for "extreme weather"?**

BEST PLANS

- When times get tough, we adjust.
- **We know that things have to change if we are going to survive the storms of life.**
- **Our problem is that we tend to adjust Jesus out of the plan. We work harder, which makes us hard. We plan more, and that makes us overwhelmed. Where does our relationship with Christ fit into our plan? Hard work and planning are essential, but real perseverance has Christ at its center.**

CHRIST-CENTERED

- We know we should be Christ-centered.
- **Christ should be the core focus, foundation, and ultimate goal of every thought, decision, relationship, and action.**
- **From creation to the cross, He has positioned Himself in the center of our lives. Are we trying to keep Him confined to our Bibles and buildings? He is with us. The real question is: Are we with Him?**